

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 3, 2007, Claims 6, 21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 6-8 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Odom et al. (U.S. Patent 7,089,466, "Odom"). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC §1103(a) as being unpatentable over Odom in view of Wiedeman et al. (U.S. Patent 6,499,115, "Wiedeman").

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Levi in view of Miller. Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the telephone conference between the Examiner and John King, a representative for Applicants, on October 30, 2007, during which claim amendments to address the rejections under 35 USC §112 were discussed, as well as the applicability of the only remaining reference Odom.

Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112 as agreed upon during the telephone conference. No new matter is added by the amendments, and specific citations to Applicants' specification are provided in this response, as suggested by the Examiner, to indicate support for the amendments. Applicants appreciate the careful consideration of the proposed claim amendments by the Examiner, and believe that the claims as amended should be in a condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

As discussed in the telephone conference on October 30, 2007, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner to indicate that the server receives a "predetermined test job from a client computer" rather than receiving a "test job from a predetermined client computer." Independent Claims 6 and 21 have been amended throughout to correctly refer to a predetermined test job. Support for the amendment may be found at least in step 710 of Fig. 7 and lines 3-10 of paragraph [0037] describing the operation of the Applicants' circuits. In particular, step 710 specifically indicates that test vectors of a predetermined test job from a client computer are coupled to the system under test by way of the test server.

Applicants have further amended independent Claims 6 and 21 as suggested by the Examiner to more clearly indicate the arrangement between the server and the plurality of client computers. In particular, Applicants have amended Claim 6 to indicate that the server is coupled to the plurality of client computers "through a network interface." Applicants have further amended Claim 6 to indicate that the plurality of systems under test are coupled to the server and shared among the plurality of client computers "through said network interface under the control of said server." Finally, Applicants have amended Claim 6 to indicate that the predetermined test job received from the client computer to the server or test results output to the client computer are through the network interface. Support for the amendments may be found at least in Fig. 1 and lines 9-14 of paragraph [0020]. Applicants have cancelled Claim 7 and amended Claim 10 in view of the amendments to Claim 6.

In addition to the amendments to Claim 21 to correctly refer to a "predetermined test job," Applicants have also amended Claim 21 to indicate that the plurality of systems under test are shared among the plurality of client computers "through a network interface under the control of a test server." Applicants have also amended the step of reconfiguring a programmable logic circuit of each system under test according to configuration data of a predetermined test job "through said network interface of said test server." Finally, Applicants have amended the step of coupling corresponding test vectors of the predetermined test job to each system under test to indicate that it is "through said network interface of said test server." Support for the amendments may also be found at least in Fig. 1 and lines 9-14 paragraph [0020]. Applicants have also amended Claims 23-25 in view of the amendments to Claim 21.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended according to the Examiner's suggestions during the telephone conference overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

As also discussed during the telephone conference on October 30, 2007, the claims clearly distinguish over the newly cited Odom reference. As set forth in Applicants' Proposed Agenda for a telephone conference, numerous elements of

Applicants' claims are not disclosed by Odom. Odom is directed to an instrumentation system having reconfigurable instrumentation cards. As shown in Fig. 2, a computer 102 is coupled to a signal conditioning chassis 122 having one or more modules 124 which control a unit under test or process under test 130. Referring to each of Claims 6 and 21, Applicants respectfully submit that Odom fails to disclose or even suggest a plurality of client computers, a plurality of systems under test, and a server coupled to both the plurality of client computers and plurality of systems under test. Further, there is no teaching in Odom that each system under test has a different programmable logic device architecture, or that each system under test is configured according to a predetermined test job, as will be described in more detail below.

While it is suggested in the Office Action that col. 7, lines 12-18 of Odom discloses "clients," Applicants respectfully submit Odom discloses that a client computer may access a server in order to obtain hardware descriptions to configure a base instrumentation card, and that clients may be provided with recently updated versions of the hardware descriptions and instructions. That is, in the only reference in Odom to a server, Odom discloses that users of base cards may access a server of a manufacturer of the base card to obtain any hardware descriptions or instructions which have been updated. While there is a discussion in the Office Action of the arrangement of a base card and daughter cards coupled to a given computer, there is simply no teaching or even a suggestion that a plurality of client computers are coupled to a server in the same system as claimed.

It is further suggested that the server of Applicants' claims is disclosed by a "host computer system" in col. 7, lines 33-38. However, there is no suggestion that the host computer system is anything other than the host computer 102, which was previously indicated as being a client computer. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of a server coupled to a plurality of systems under test. There is a single "unit under test" 130 in Odom. In contrast, Odom teaches the use of multiple instrumentation cards in testing a single unit under test. Moreover, while the multiple instrumentation cards of Odom are configured according to different hardware descriptions, Applicants claim a plurality of systems under test, where each system under test is configured with the design of the

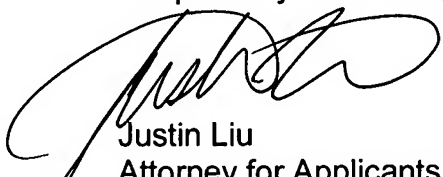
predetermined test job. That is, while Applicants' systems under test as claimed have different programmable logic device architectures, they are configured with the same design. There is no teaching in Odom of a plurality of systems under test, and particularly a plurality of systems under test having a different programmable logic device architecture configured with the same design. Applicants respectfully submit that each of Claims 6 and 21 include numerous limitations which are not disclosed in Odom. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 6-8 and 21-25 for the reasons set forth above.

Finally, in response to the rejection of Claim 10 as being unpatentable over Odom in view of Wiedeman, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is allowable over the combination of references for the same reason that Claim 6 is believed allowable over Odom alone. While Wiedeman is cited for disclosing an additional network, Wiedeman also fails to overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference Odom. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 10 in view of the remarks above related to Odom.

CONCLUSION

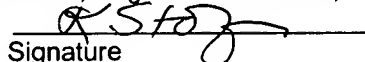
All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on November 2, 2007.

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Name


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